

these young men and women, 80 percent of them go on to engineering degrees in colleges.

I am not sure of the exact statistics, but China is producing a staggering number of engineers greater than we are in this country, and that ought to give us all pause for concern. If America wants to remain competitive in whatever arena, look at the advantages all these engineers being trained in China will give them over us, as we produce fewer engineers, should give each of us pause on a variety of levels.

These young men and women go on to school to further their careers. They work in teams. They learn to use skills and techniques and processes that serve them well in the real world by working in groups, small groups and large groups, to accomplish this program. They design this vehicle from nose cone to nozzle, including the propulsion systems.

Now, once they have the design done, they then build the rocket. They build the 35-pound test module that they are going to send 100,000 feet into the air. They build it from scratch. They do all the electrical work; they do all of the construction work that they can. They then begin to look for contributions from companies that might be in this business or in allied businesses, looking for the nozzle parts, looking for the parts of the nose cone, the fuel systems, and those kinds of things, because they do not have money that goes with this. This is all part of the program of living in the real world, looking at problems and trying to figure out how to solve them.

Some of the accomplishments of the Fredericksburg High School and this team is the first high school to break the sound barrier with their rocket.

□ 1530

They are also the high school that has launched the largest, fastest vehicle to the highest altitude at a Federal missile range, White Sands Missile Range outside Alamogordo. That is a top accomplishment for a group of high school students.

This program, in its seventh or eighth year, is being developed in a manner that will allow it to be replicated in other high schools across the Nation, providing an opportunity to incite and interest our young men and women in positive programs doing things and doing those things well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point this out to my colleagues here in the House. I hope that the good citizens throughout the 11th Congressional District of Texas and throughout the United States will recognize these accomplishments, will look for their own communities to say: We have some kids that are as bright and as smart as the kids in Fredericksburg, Texas; I wonder why we cannot beat their record, why we cannot put a 35-pound payload 100,000 feet into the air and recover it intact. It is a great accomplishment that is going on in Fred-

ericksburg, Texas. This is a great opportunity to recognize the wonderful things being done by these students, in contrast to all the bad things that we hear in the press.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

LEBANON AND SYRIA LIBERATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, for too long Syria has heard yes from the world. It has sponsored terrorism, and the world answered: Yes. It has built up an arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, and the world answered: Yes. And it has stolen from Lebanon its sovereignty and political independence, and, once again, the world answered: Yes.

This week, we are here to tell Syria: No. For over a generation, the world stood silently as the occupation set deep roots in Lebanon, while hundreds of people were murdered by Syrian-supported terrorists like Hezbollah all over the world, and a dangerous stockpile of chemical weapons was developed. Anger grew as guerillas entered Iraq from Syria to kill innocent Iraqis and American soldiers, but it was left to the United States Congress to grab the bull by the horns and devise a policy to free Lebanon and confront Syria.

The Syria Accountability Act and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, which I wrote, was signed into law in December 2003 and told Syria that things had changed. Until Syria got out of Lebanon, halted its support for terror, ended weapons of mass destruction programs and stanching the flow of extremists into Iraq, it would face sanctions.

Last fall, the United Nations followed our lead. They demanded in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1559 that Syria completely leave Lebanon, and Hezbollah be dismantled. But still, Syria remains in Lebanon, and the terror machine operates from the Damascus sanctuary.

It is remarkable, but it has taken the murder of a former prime minister of Lebanon and mass protests by Lebanese aspiring for democracy for the

world to take on the Syria challenge. The Cedar Revolution which has been launched by Lebanese people calling for Syria to leave Lebanon is something that really make us proud.

So this week, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and I introduced a new bill. This is the natural follow-up to the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. The legislation is called LA SYRIA LA, which means in Arabic, No Syria No. It says that until Damascus gets completely out of Lebanon, stops supporting terrorist groups and ends its weapons of mass destruction programs, the Lebanese and Syria Liberation Act, LA SYRIA LA, codifies existing sanctions against Syria and imposes American sanctions on countries and companies which provide destabilizing weapons to Syria. In other words, third countries will have sanctions against them if they provide destabilizing weapons to Syria. It calls for a State Department report to Congress on Syrian activities, provides for American assistance to pro-democracy and human rights groups in Syria and Lebanon and instructs our government to oppose Syrian bids for U.N. leadership positions and international loans to Syria.

So, today, we stand with the Lebanese people who wish to take back their people by saying no to the Syrian occupiers. We stand with the world and the President of the United States, who is saying no to the Syrian occupation, and we align ourselves with the forces of Lebanese democracy which will deliver the ultimate no to Syria through power of the ballot box, not the barrel of the gun.

Now I must say, today, the newspapers reported that in a sharp policy reversal, the Bush administration is now ready to see Hezbollah in a role in Lebanon at the urging of France. I am sorry to hear, that, if it is true, is ill-advised, and I urged the administration to never acquiesce to terrorist organizations like Hezbollah. Hezbollah is in the same category as al Qaeda, and the President has said time and time again that there are no good terrorists, only bad terrorists, and we cannot compromise with terrorism. I hope this is not the fact. We should not deal with Hezbollah. Hezbollah killed 243 Marines, U.S. Marines, 20 some odd years ago in Beirut and has killed countless number of Israeli citizens by being allowed to conduct a proxy off of Syria against Israel in South Lebanon.

Resolution 1559 of the U.N. Security Council which we sponsored says that Hezbollah and all terrorist organizations in Lebanon must be dismantled and that the Syrians must get out of Lebanon. I urge the administration to stick to its guns on that and never recognize Hezbollah as anything more than a terrorist group.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.